

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 In a radio access network of a telecommunications system, an end-to-end
2 signaling protocol is utilized to establish plural distinct connection or link segments
3 comprising a radio connection involving a user equipment unit (30). The plural distinct
4 connection segments extend in series between a device (27₁) in a first radio network
5 control node (SRNC 26₁) and a device at a base station (28₂₋₁) controlled by a second
6 radio network control node (DRNC 26₂). An example end-to-end signaling protocol is
7 AAL2. Provision of the plural distinct connection segments is advantageous when
8 performing a SRNC relocation procedure to make the second radio network control
9 node serve as the SRNC for the radio connection involving the user equipment unit.
10 After performance of the SRNC relocation procedure, a retained one of the plural
11 distinct connection segments (400₁, 500₁) can still be utilized, e.g., a segment extending
12 between the device at the base station controlled by the second radio network control
13 node and a device at the second radio network control node. The retained one of the
14 connection segments can either be utilized in series with a post-relocation connection
15 segment to establish a path between the base station controlled by the second radio
16 network control node and a diversity handover unit at the second radio network control
17 node, or have its connection point moved to the diversity handover unit at the second
18 radio network control node. Disclosed modes include a three connection segment mode
19 and a two connection segment mode. In one of its aspects, the present invention
20 utilizes binding information to accommodate employment of the multiple connection
21 segments such as described in the three connection segment mode and the two
22 connection segment mode.
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